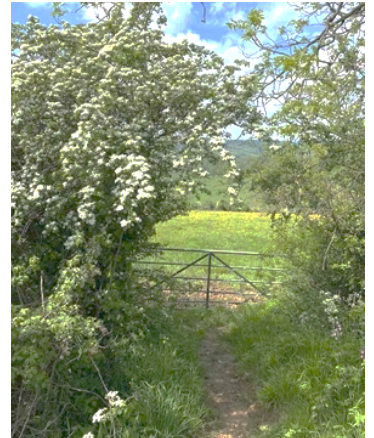


*We are a group of local residents aiming to raise awareness, encourage discussion and stimulate practical action to ensure we develop into the future as a thriving and sustainable community that responds positively to the big environmental and social challenges facing us all.*



*'In June as many as a dozen species may burst their buds on a single day. No man can heed all of these anniversaries; no man can ignore all of them. Aldo Leopold, American writer and naturalist*



**Summer wildflowers** Reducing mowing to just once or twice a year (September to March) provides more flowers for pollinators, allows plants to set seed and creates better habitats for other animals. That's why our Blue Heart verges around Marshfield will be left uncut now until later in the summer. If you are a landowner with roadside grassy areas, you could try the same. When you do cut, always rake off and remove the leavings though as this helps wildflowers to establish themselves. Dr Trevor Dines at Plantlife

says: "Our research estimates that if all road verges in the United Kingdom were managed for nature, there would be a spectacular 418,88 billion more flowers, or 6,300 per person in the UK.



**Slow worms on the verge** Nigel and Joy de Berker who have lived on Ayford Lane for 35 years have reported their first sighting of a slow worm on the Blue Heart verge there. It is a Priority Species, protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Neither worm or snake, the slow worm is a legless lizard. It is harmless, grows to a length 50cms and lives to an average of 20 years. Has anyone else spotted one around and about?

**Solar progress** The Energy Working Group of Marshfield Community Land Trust has been awarded a Rural Community Energy Fund grant to fund consultants to investigate the feasibility of a large viable community owned PV project as a local contribution towards national net zero carbon. The Study is set to be completed in early September.



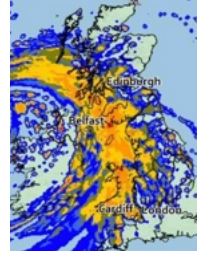
### ***Marshfield Solar Streets responding to the climate crisis***

Sustainable Marshfield has forged a partnership with solar installer, IDDEA, to offer village residents a significant price discount to install a solar array. A standard 3.6kW solar array usually costing around £6,000 will be around £4,100. The first installations with battery storage, are taking place in June. For your free survey and quote contact [info@iddea.co.uk](mailto:info@iddea.co.uk) You can learn more about IDDEA here: <https://www.iddea.co.uk> They also offer a finance scheme to assist with staged payments. We have prepared a planning guidance note on installing solar arrays in the Conservation Area. For this and any other questions email: [solarstreets@sustainablemarshfield.org](mailto:solarstreets@sustainablemarshfield.org)



**Marshfield Country Market** has been going at the church hall for over 40 years. With lock-down it has been unable to open. Some older members are also needing to step back. It has now come to a point where it is short of producers and bodies to help run the market, in front of and behind the scenes. If you have ideas, are a producer, or would like to be involved in running the market, please contact Cynthia Bond 01225 891503

**Farming diary** by Dawn Brooks from Field Farm In April we had drought conditions. In May we have had record rainfall. Fingers crossed that June will be sunny. Farming is totally weather dependent which is why there are so many old sayings, “a lipin May for a load of hay” is the one we are hoping will come true this year. (lipin = local slang for a lot of rain!) Let us know if you have other local sayings related to the weather. And with the growing impact of climate crisis, any thoughts about new sayings that might emerge?



**Cowslips.** It's been a bumper year for these lovely spring pasture flowers and you've still got time (before they fade away) to join a survey aimed at determining the health of the places where they grow. This photo was taken on 27 May along Beek's Lane. It's a lonely L-morph plant. Where are its S-morph friends? Follow this link to learn more about the difference and why it is important: <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/cowslip-survey>



**Delivering change** Royal Mail has announced its first delivery office to have an all all-electric fleet of collection and delivery vehicles. Bristol East Central delivery office's 23 diesel vehicles have been replaced by fully electric ones.

Ofgem, the UK'S energy regulator has just approved plans for £300 million in low carbon projects including support for 3,550 charging points for electric vehicles. 1,800 of these will be ultra rapid charging points at motorway service areas. Every month we see more Electric Vehicles appearing in Marshfield as the transition from petrol and diesel vehicles gathers pace.



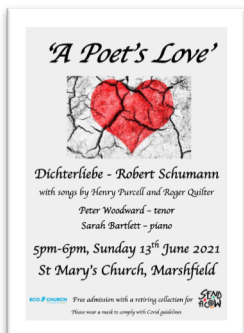
**For Peat's sake!** The government has announced that sales of peat compost to gardeners will be banned from 2024, The UK's peatlands store three times as much carbon as its forests. But the vast majority are in a degraded state, and are emitting CO<sub>2</sub>, which drives the climate crisis.

Gardeners are being encouraged to change the way they manage their gardens to be kinder to wildlife and reduce their impact on climate change. Maybe this is the perfect time to ramp up your own home composting efforts.

### Local events with a sustainability theme

On **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June** as part of its Eco Church initiative, there is a song recital in St Mary's Church supporting 'Send a Cow'. This locally based international charity supports sustainable agriculture projects in Africa.

On **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July** there's a chance for us all to come together at the Community Centre for a day of celebration. It'll be a great moment to reconnect. Sustainability is all about community!



### Growing Sustainable Marshfield membership with your help.

We want to grow our free membership, connecting up households in and around Marshfield who are interested in taking local action for sustainability. Please encourage friends and neighbours to join.

Email your name, address and phone to: [membership@sustainablemarshfield.org](mailto:membership@sustainablemarshfield.org)

All other correspondence to [news@sustainablemarshfield.org](mailto:news@sustainablemarshfield.org)

Join over 380 people on the **Sustainable Marshfield Group** on Facebook for updates and discussion.